

## ABSTRACT

A modulation quality detection system is disclosed for determining the modulation quality of an illumination modulator in an imaging system. The modulation quality detection system includes a modulator adjustment unit for providing a test pattern on the illumination modulator, a detector for receiving a modulated illumination field from the illumination modulator, a sampling unit for determining at least three sample values ( $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$ ) for each of three areas of the modulated illumination field respectively, and an evaluation unit for determining whether the value  $\left(\frac{A+C}{2}\right) - B$  is greater than a threshold value.